



# Federal Legislative Update

Quarter 1, March 2018



## Introduction

The Texas Workforce Investment Council's *Federal Legislative Update* is published on a quarterly basis and informs stakeholders about developments in federal legislation that may impact workforce policy for Texas.

## Recent Highlights from Congress

### Appropriations

Congress passed a continuing resolution in January to fund the government through February 8, 2018. President Trump signed the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018, which funded the government through March 23, 2018. Congress is working on an omnibus bill for fiscal year (FY) 2018 that will close out the year's appropriations.

President Trump submitted his initial budget for FY 2019 on February 12, 2018. Subsequently, an addendum was submitted that returned budget items to levels similar to those in FY 2017. The budget provides increases in funding for apprenticeship and career and technical education programs and a small decrease in funding for adult education and family literacy. The FY 2018 appropriations (shown in parentheses below in comparison to proposed 2019 funding) are operating under a continuing resolution and do not include a full year of appropriations.

### Training

- WIOA Adult: \$815.5 million  
This program assists disadvantaged, low-skilled, unemployed, and underemployed adults to gain the skills and credentials needed to compete in the workforce.
- WIOA Youth: \$873.4 million  
This program prepares youth for jobs or postsecondary education through career guidance, educational attainment, and training assistance.
- WIOA Dislocated Worker: \$1.2 billion  
This program prepares and provides training for dislocated workers for new jobs and careers.
- WIOA Governor's Reserve (set-aside): 15 percent  
These funds are used to implement state-led workforce development and job-creation efforts.
- Registered Apprenticeship: \$200.0 million

This training program allows participants to gain academic knowledge and on-the-job skills while earning a paycheck.

- **Wagner-Peyser Employment Service: \$671.4 million**  
This program provides comprehensive recruiting, job search, and related services to businesses and job seekers to connect employers seeking workers and individuals seeking employment.

#### *Education*

- **Career and Technical Education: \$1.6 billion**  
Secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs prepare youth and adults for success in the workforce.
- **Adult Education and Family Literacy: \$485.8 million**  
This program includes basic education, literacy, and English language programs for adults.

#### **Other Workforce-Related Legislation**

The following bills were recently introduced and will continue to be monitored throughout the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Bill summaries may include information from GovTrack and the Library of Congress.

**HR 4078 – Expanding America’s Workforce Act.** This bill includes several provisions aimed at supporting job training through postsecondary education systems. A new type of Pell grant would cover job training programs of eight to 12 weeks in length. This tuition assistance would be available to people without high school diplomas and people who already have college degrees. The bill would call on the Departments of Labor and Education to develop a system for articulating apprenticeship training into college credit. It would also mandate that credits from identical academic programs of the same level, if approved by the same accrediting agency, be automatically transferable between colleges.

**HR 4323 – The Supporting Veterans in STEM Career Act.** This bill will help promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research. This bill will modify several existing veteran scholarships and fellowships.

**HR 4942 – The BUILDS Act.** This bill would require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships. This bill is designed to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement through workforce development.

**HR 5018 – The Education and Workforce Innovation Act.** This bill would award grants to eligible entities to carry out programs that provide direct skills and job training for individuals to enter and advance in high-growth, emerging, and in-demand industries. The bill would authorize \$75 million per year in grants to support high schools, postsecondary vocational schools, and community colleges.

**S 2390 – The Community College to Career Fund Act.** This bill would award competitive grants for three years to community colleges, four-year institutions, and public or private nonprofits for the purpose of developing, offering, improving, and providing educational or career training programs for workers.

**S 2407 – The Gateway to Careers Act.** This bill would establish a career pathway grant program by authorizing grants to fund career pathway partnerships between community and technical colleges and other workforce development stakeholders. These grants would fund four-year projects and offer strategies to help working adults gain postsecondary credentials, dual enrollment, supportive services, professional development, and career pathways navigation.